

CLAIMS:

1-6. Cancelled.

7. (Currently Amended) A battery storage apparatus comprising a housing, said housing comprising:

(a) a first non-conductive sleeve having an open end, a ~~closed~~ terminal end, and a substantially constant cross section along its entire length from the open end to the ~~closed~~ terminal end, said first sleeve dimensioned to conform closely to and receive a first end of a battery of known-dimensions, the length of said first sleeve being shorter than the length of said battery, thereby allowing an exposed end of said battery to extend from said first sleeve when said battery is inserted therein, said first sleeve adapted to snugly fit over an inserted portion of said battery;

(b) a second non-conductive sleeve having an open end, a ~~closed~~ terminal end, and a substantially constant cross section along its entire length from the open end to the ~~closed~~ terminal end, said second sleeve being dimensioned to conform closely to and receive the exposed end of said battery of known-dimensions, the length of said second sleeve being less than or equal to the length of said exposed end of said battery, said second sleeve adapted to snugly fit over at least a portion of said exposed end of said battery approximately the length of said exposed battery;
and

(c) said first sleeve and said second sleeve being in a non-sealed relationship with each other when said battery is inserted therein wherein said battery storage apparatus allows retrieval of said battery for removal from the battery storage apparatus, for use in a device requiring batteries.

8. (Currently Amended) The battery storage apparatus of claim 7, wherein

(a) a first non-conductive sleeve defines more than one cavity, each cavity having an open end, a ~~closed~~ terminal end, and a substantially constant cross section along its entire length from the open end to the ~~closed~~ terminal end, each of said cavities

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being dimensioned to conform closely to and receive a battery of known dimensions, the length of said first sleeve being shorter than the length of said battery, thereby allowing an exposed end of said battery to extend from said first sleeve when said battery is inserted therein, said first sleeve adapted to snugly fit over said inserted portion of said battery; and

(b) a second non-conductive sleeve defines more than one cavity, each cavity with an open end, a closed terminal end, and a substantially constant cross section along its entire length from the open end to the closed terminal end, said second sleeve being dimensioned to conform closely to and receive the exposed end of said battery of known dimensions, the length of said second sleeve being less than or equal to the length of said exposed end of said battery, said second sleeve adapted to snugly fit over at least a portion of said exposed end of said battery approximately the length of said exposed battery or batteries;
and

(c) said first sleeve and said second sleeve being in a non-sealed relationship with each other when the battery is inserted therein.

9. (Currently Amended) The battery storage apparatus of claim 7, wherein the terminal end of the first sleeve defines at least one aperture large enough for air to pass through while a battery is being inserted or removed from said cavity, and the terminal end of the second sleeve defines at least one aperture large enough for air to pass through while a battery is being inserted or removed from said cavity, wherein each aperture is adapted to substantially prevent conductive items from contacting the terminals on said battery ~~allows easier insertion and removal of the~~ battery.

10. (Currently Amended) The battery storage apparatus of claim 8, wherein the terminal ends of the first sleeve define at least one aperture large enough for air to pass through while a battery is being inserted or removed from said cavity, and the

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terminal ends of the second sleeve define at least one aperture large enough for air to pass through while a battery is being inserted or removed from said cavity, wherein each aperture is adapted to substantially prevent conductive items from contacting the terminals on said battery ~~allows easier insertion and removal of the batteries.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The battery storage apparatus of claim 9, wherein said aperture has a diameter smaller than a diameter of a battery terminal, thereby impeding contact of conductive items with a battery terminal ~~to prevent accidental discharge.~~
12. (Currently Amended) The battery storage apparatus of claim 10, wherein said aperture has a diameter smaller than a diameter of a battery terminal, thereby impeding contact of conductive items with a battery terminal ~~to prevent accidental discharge.~~
13. (Currently Amended) The battery storage apparatus of claim 7, wherein the battery or batteries are accessible to a user ~~for any purpose.~~
14. (Currently Amended) A battery storage apparatus comprising a housing, said housing comprising:
 - a non-conductive sleeve having an open end, a closed terminal end, and a substantially constant cross section along its entire length from the open end to the closed terminal end, said sleeve dimensioned to conform closely to and receive a battery of known dimensions, said sleeve adapted to snugly fit over an inserted portion of said battery, the length of said sleeve being substantially the same length of said battery, wherein said battery storage apparatus allows immediate retrieval of

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said battery.

15. (Currently Amended) A battery storage apparatus comprising a housing, said housing comprising:

(a) a first non-conductive sleeve having an open end, a closed terminal end, and a substantially constant cross section along its entire length from the open end to the closed terminal end, said first sleeve dimensioned to conform closely to and receive a battery of ~~known dimensions~~, the length of said first sleeve being shorter than the length of said battery, thereby allowing an exposed end of said battery to extend from said first sleeve when said battery is inserted therein, said first sleeve adapted to snugly fit over an inserted portion of said battery;

(b) a second non-conductive sleeve having an open end, a ~~closed~~terminal end, and a substantially constant cross section along its entire length from the open end to the ~~closed~~ terminal end, said second sleeve being dimensioned to conform closely to and receive the exposed end of said battery of ~~known dimensions~~, the length of said second sleeve being shorter than the length of said battery, said second sleeve adapted to snugly fit over at least a portion of said exposed portion of said battery; and

(c) wherein said first sleeve and said second sleeve being in a non-sealed relationship with each other when the battery is inserted therein ~~said battery storage apparatus allows retrieval of said battery for removal from the battery storage apparatus, for use in a device requiring batteries.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The battery storage apparatus of claim 14, wherein a non-conductive sleeve defines more than one cavity, each cavity having an open end, a closed terminal end, and a substantially constant cross section along its entire length from the open end to the ~~closed~~ terminal end, each of said cavities being dimensioned to conform closely to and receive a battery of ~~known dimensions~~,

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the length of said sleeve being substantially the length of said battery.

17. (Currently Amended) The battery storage apparatus of claim 15, wherein
- (a) the first non-conductive sleeve defines more than one cavity, each cavity having an open end, a ~~closed~~ terminal end, and a substantially constant cross section along its entire length from the open end to the ~~closed~~ terminal end, each of said cavities being dimensioned to conform closely to and receive a battery of ~~known dimensions~~, the length of said first sleeve being shorter than the length of said battery thereby allowing an exposed end of said battery to extend from said first sleeve when said battery is inserted therein, said first sleeve adapted to snugly fit over an inserted portion of said battery; and
- (b) the second non-conductive sleeve defines more than one cavity, each cavity with an open end, a ~~closed~~ terminal end, and a substantially constant cross section along its entire length from the open end to the ~~closed~~ terminal end, said second sleeve being dimensioned to conform closely to and receive the exposed end of said battery of ~~known dimensions~~, the length of said second sleeve being shorter than the length of said exposed battery or batteries, said second sleeve adapted to snugly fit over at least a portion of said exposed portion of said battery.
18. (Currently Amended) The battery storage apparatus of claim 16, wherein the terminal end of the sleeve defines at least one aperture large enough for air to pass through, wherein each aperture is adapted to substantially prevent conductive items from contacting the terminals on said battery ~~allows easier insertion of the battery~~.
19. (Currently Amended) The battery storage apparatus of claim 15, wherein the terminal ends of the first sleeve define at least one aperture large enough for air to pass through and the terminal ends of the second sleeve define at least one

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aperture large enough for air to pass through, wherein each aperture is adapted to substantially prevent conductive items from contacting the terminals on said battery ~~allows easier insertion of the batteries.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The battery storage apparatus of claim 18, wherein said aperture has a diameter smaller than a diameter of a battery terminal, thereby impeding contact with a battery terminal ~~to prevent accidental discharge.~~

21. (Currently Amended) The battery storage apparatus of claim 19, wherein said aperture has a diameter smaller than a diameter of a battery terminal thereby impeding contact with a battery terminal ~~to prevent accidental discharge.~~

22. (Currently Amended) The battery storage apparatus of claim 15, wherein the battery or batteries are accessible to a user ~~for any purpose.~~